

**Sand and Sage Round-Up**  
**RABBIT STUDY GUIDE**  
**Junior Division**  
**(8-10 years of age as of December 31)**

**Questions will come from:**

Colorado 4-H Ethical Care of Rabbits handout  
Meat Quality Assurance  
Rabbit Study Guide  
Information from your Rabbit 1 “Hop To It” 4-H project activity guide.

**You should know the meaning of the following terms.**

Blemishes - Flaws or defects, especially those that affect appearance.

Breeder - One who breeds or raises a special variety or varieties of rabbits.

Buck - An unaltered male rabbit.

Condition - The physical state of a rabbit; its health, cleanliness, texture, moult or fur and grooming

Doe - An unspayed female rabbit.

Fryer - Young meat rabbit under five pounds.

Gestation - The period of time that a doe is pregnant (carries her young) from breeding to kindling (28-32 days).

Kindle - The process of giving birth to young rabbits.

Kit - A baby rabbit under 16 ounces.

Luster - Brightness and brilliance of fur.

Pair - A male and female rabbit.

Rabbitry - The area or building in which a group of hutches and rabbits are kept.

Tattoo - The permanent identification mark of a rabbit which is placed in the left ear. The A.R.B.A. number goes in the right ear.

Weaning - The process by which young rabbits are removed from the doe to prevent nursing. A young rabbit is weaned when it is between four to eight weeks old, depending on breeding schedule and breed of rabbit.

**You should be familiar with the Colorado ethical care of rabbits guidelines.**

**You should know how to dress for the show ring.**

1. Shirt with collar, No tank tops
2. Pants with a belt
3. No cap or hat
4. Hair combed

**You should know how to figure:**

Profit or loss on your project.

Total income minus total expenses

\$100 per pen minus \$66.00 (total expenses) = \$34.00 (total profit)

## **You should know:**

The most important element in a rabbit's diet is water.

An all-wire cage for a 6-7 lb. Rabbit should be at least 2' wide by 18" high by 2' long.

Outside cages need a shady roof and protection from rain, wind drafts, dampness and direct sun during the hot summer months.

Remove all droppings from the cage every day.

Rabbits need a balanced diet to grow and reproduce. Feed them commercially prepared 14%-16% protein rabbit pellets daily.

Uses of Rabbits:

Breeding Stock - Success depends on your ability to breed and raise top-quality animals, and to keep accurate, complete records.

Meat - If you are sure you can comply with the processing laws and can provide a steady supply, check out locally owned grocery stores, neighbors and friends to see if they have a need for rabbit meat.

Fur - The cash market for tanned fur is limited, however hides can be tanned for use in making novelty and craft items.

Wool - The Angora rabbit is one breed raised for its wool. If you want to raise Angoras, you should first learn where the wool can be marketed for a profit.

Laboratory Use - You will need to check in your area for research facilities that buy rabbits. A license for this is required in most states.

Pets - Pet stores may be a good place for you to sell extra rabbits or rabbits that do not have proper color or markings. Again, you will need to check the legal and health requirements.

An average rabbit will eat four pounds of rabbit pellets to gain one pound of weight. This is called feed conversion.

A rabbit hide is called a pelt.

A rabbit has five toes and the front feet and four on the back feet.

## **RABBITRY SANITATION IS CRITICAL TASK**

1) What are some characteristics of the proper environment for housing rabbits?

Hutches should be clean, comfortable, and safe.

2) Which is harder on your rabbits - cold weather or extreme heat?

Rabbits can tolerate cold temperatures, but extreme heat will kill them. So, in the summer, locate your hutch in a shady spot.

3) Do drafts affect your rabbits?

Yes - wind and drafts can cause snuffles and other illnesses.

How can you prevent drafts?

Locate the hutch in an area not affected by wind and install the proper roof and sidewalls.

4) How often should feeding and watering equipment be cleaned?

Clean water bottles twice a week, and feed and water crocks daily. Use hot, soapy water and a disinfectant. Allow the feed crocks to dry completely before replacing the feed.

5) How often should the entire hutch be cleaned?

Clean the entire hutch at least twice a year with hot, soapy water and a disinfectant. Allow the hutch to dry completely before returning the rabbits to their cages. (Note: Always remove rabbits before attempting any type of cage cleaning or disinfecting.)

6) What should you do with dead rabbits?

Remove dead animals from the rabbitry immediately and burn the carcass.

7) How do you properly manage manure accumulation under a self-cleaning hutch?

Remove and compost manure weekly. Sprinkle lime over the manure to reduce odor; sprinkle a pelleted fly control over the manure to reduce the number of flies.

8) Describe a method of removing fur and waste clinging to the bottom of the hutch.

Remove fur and waste by using a propane torch to remove any stubborn buildup. Brush away remaining ashes and clean entire compartment with a solution of bleach and water. (Note: Always remove rabbits before attempting any type of cage cleaning or disinfecting.)

9) How do you keep strange animals out of the hutch?

Enclose or fence in the hutch.

#### PARTS OF A RABBIT

